

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 SS-20 INR-10 PRS-01 RSC-01

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R 122134Z MAR 74  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON  
INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS  
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA  
AMCONSUL CAN THO  
AMCONSUL DANANG  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG  
USDEL JEC PARIS  
USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM  
CINCPAC  
COGARD  
XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

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COGARD FOR POLAD

KMO. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US  
SUBJECT: MARCH 12 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. SVN DIGS IN ON SPRATLYS. GVN MIL SOURCES SAY  
SAIGON FORCES START "SECOND PHASE" OF OPERATIONS TO  
"CONSOLIDATE SOVEREIGNTY" OVER ISLANDS. FROGMEN AND  
ENGINEERS LANDED WITH ABOUT 500 TONS OF CONSTRUCTION  
MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT TO BUILD BUNKERS, AS WELL  
AS AMMO, FUEL AND FOOD. GVN NOW HAS FIVE NAVAL VESSELS  
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IN AREA (AP, NYT).

2. GVN COMMAND REPORTS 25 COMMUNISTS KIA AS ARVN  
REPELS ATTACK ON CAMP NEAR HIGHWAY 1 ABOUT 35 MILES NW

OF SAIGON. HEAVY FIGHTING REPORTED ON TWO FRONTS  
IN DELTA (UPI, NYDN; WP).

3. NYT REPORTS BUDDHIST DELEGATION HALTED IN EFFORT  
TO VISIT SAIGON'S CHI HOA PRISON. HEADED BY MONK  
FROM AN QUANG PAGODA, GROUP OF ABOUT 20 TURNED AWAY WHEN  
THEY TRIED TO SEE 200-300 INMATES REPORTED ON HUNGER  
STRIKE SINCE FEB. 27. STRIKERS ARE SAID TO BE BUDDHISTS  
AND MEMBERS OF CAO DAI SECT IMPRISONED FOR REFUSING  
INDUCTION INTO ARMY ON THE BASIS OF RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS  
TO MILITARY SERVICE. BUDDHIST GROUP SAID CONCERNED  
ABOUT STRIKERS' HEALTH, THOUGH PRISON HEAD SAYS STRIKERS

HAD STORED FOOD IN THEIR CELLS AND ARE "ALL IN GOOD  
HEALTH". PRISON HEAD CHARACTERIZES STRIKERS AS "MERELY  
YOUNG MEN TRYING TO AVOID THE DRAFT", AND SERVED TEA  
TO NEWSMEN IN HIS OFFICE WHILE HE CONFISCATED THEIR  
FILMS AND TAPES OF INCIDENT. HE SAID THAT SEIZURE OF  
MATERIALS WAS ORDERED BY TOP NATIONAL POLICE OFFICIALS,  
AND HELD OUT HOPE OF LATER RETURN OF ITEMS BELONGING  
TO CBS, NBC AND "SEVERAL OTHER ORGANIZATIONS" COVERING  
THE EVENT. IN RELATED ARTICLE, MCCOMBS (WP) FROM  
SAIGON REPORTS THAT WESTERN NEWSMEN WERE LED TO THE  
PRISON TO TALK TO PROTESTING BUDDHIST INMATES BY WELL-  
KNOWN CRITIC MRS. NGO BA THANH, WHO SAYS HUNGER-STRIKERS  
ARE "POLITICAL PRISONERS" AND THAT SHE WILL PROTEST  
THEIR IMPRISONMENT TO THE ICCS. REPORTERS WERE TURNED  
AWAY BY PRISON OFFICIALS AND SOME FILM CONFISCATED.  
GVN SPOKESMAN DECLINES OFFICIAL COMMENT ON INCIDENT.  
MCCOMBS REPORTS THAT MRS. THANH IS APPARENTLY FOLLOWED  
BY POLICE AND ON SOME OCCASIONS HAS BEEN PREVENTED  
FROM TALKING TO LARGE GROUPS OF REPORTERS, BUT "FREELY  
SEES REPORTERS ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS." MCCOMBS REVIEWS  
RECENTLY COMPLETED POW EXCHANGE, SAYS GVN HAS RELEASED  
A BOOKLET WITH PHOTOS OF EXCHANGE THAT STATES PRISONERS  
RELEASED BY THE VC WERE ILL, MALNOURISHED AND HAD  
ENDURED "PHYSICAL AND MENTAL TORTURE", WHILE THOSE  
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RELEASED BY GVN HAD BEEN "WELL-TREATED AND CARED FOR".  
REPORTERS DID NOT VIEW EXCHANGES BECAUSE TWO SIDES  
COULD NOT AGREE ON PROCEDURES. MCCOMBS ADDS THAT GVN  
IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ON PRISONER ISSUE, WHICH IS  
BEING "CAREFULLY WATCHED ON CAPITOL HILL."

4. WP REPORTS FOUR NEW F-5E FIGHTERS ARRIVED AT  
CLARK AFB FOR TRANSFER TO SVN, AND FOUR MORE ON THE  
WAY. THESE WILL BE FIRST OF ABOUT 150 FOR GVN OVER  
NEXT TWO YEARS TO REPLACE THE SAME NUMBER OF "OLDER  
AND LESS CAPABLE" F-5AS. CRITICS OF ADMIN PLAN TO  
SUPPLY F-5ES TO VNAF CLAIM IT REPRESENTS "MODERNIZATION"  
WITH MORE SOPHISTICATED PLANES THAT GOES BEYOND ONE-

FOR-ONE REPLACEMENT PROVIDED FOR IN C-F.

5. PHINQ REPEATS MURRAY MARDER STORY, ORIGINALLY CARRIED IN MARCH 9 WP, ON AMB MARTIN'S REBUTTAL OF SHIPLER NYT ARTICLE ON US ACTIVITY IN SVN. CHITRIB EXCERPTS MARCH 11 NYT ARTICLE (BY FINNEY) ON INCREASING US AID TO INDOCHINA, UNDER HEADING "MORE AID URGED FOR SOUTH VIETS".

6. IN S.C., GEN. WESTMORELAND, COURTIED BY BOTH DEMS AND REPS AS POSSIBLE GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE,

WILL ANNOUNCE HIS INTENTIONS TODAY (WP).

CHINA

7. REUTER HK REPORTS THAT SERIES OF PAMPHLETS CRITICIZING LIN PIAO AND CONFUCIUS WERE APPARENTLY BEST SELLERS IN CHINA LAST MONTH. QUOTES NCNA THAT HSIN HUA BOOKSTORES LAST MONTH SOLD 200 MILLION COPIES NATIONWIDE.

8. AP CSM REPEATS US POSTAL SERVICE MARCH 3 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT MAIL TO MAINLAND CHINA SHOULD HAVE WORDS "PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA" SPELLED OUT, AND THAT POSTAL SERVICE HAS BEEN INFORMED BY PRC THAT TERMS SUCH AS "RED CHINA," "COMMUNIST CHINA" OR "MAINLAND CHINA" ARE UNACCEPTABLE.  
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9. JOC HK NOTES REPORTS FROM JAPAN THAT PRC OIL IS NOW MORE EXPENSIVE THAN ME OR INDONESIAN CRUDE. IMPORT PRICE FOR CHINESE OIL NOW FIXED AT 14.80 DOLS F.O.B. PER BARREL, OR NEARLY FOUR TIMES AS HIGH AS LAST YEAR. CONTRACTS ALREADY SIGNED BETWEEN CHINA NATIONAL IMPORT AND EXPORT CORP. AND KOKUSAI OIL CO. (AGENT OF JAPANESE IMPORTERS OF CHINESE CRUDE) TO IMPORT 1.5 MILLION TONS FROM CHINA THIS YEAR (LESS THAN ORIGINALLY HOPED FOR) AS COMPARED WITH ONE MILLION TONS LAST YEAR. BUT SOME FIRMS REPRESENTED BY KOKUSAI IN NEGOTIATIONS HAVE LOST INTEREST BECAUSE OF PRICE.

10. NYT'S SHABAD REPORTS BOTH PRC AND SOVIET, APPARENTLY SPURRED BY WORLD ENERGY SHORTAGE, HAVE BEEN GEARING UP FOR MAJOR OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND PRODUCTION PROGRAMS IN PACIFIC BASIN. BOTH SELF-SUFFICIENT IN POL PRODUCTION, SO THEIR STEPPED-UP ACTIVITIES INTENDED TO ENHANCE EXPORT POTENTIAL, PARTICULARLY FOR SHIPMENTS TO JAPAN. PRC REPORTEDLY HAS ORDEREDEXPLORATION VESSELS FOR YELLOW SEA FROM DENMARK AND DRILLING RIGS FROM

JAPAN, AND IS SAID TO BE DISCUSSING SUPPLY OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND PIPELINE STEEL TUBING WITH JAPANESE FIRMS. PEKING INTEREST IN OFFSHORE DEVELOPMENT APPEARS FOCUSED ON SOUTHERN PART OF PO HAI, THAT WOULD BE EXTENSION OF ONSHORE SHENGLI FIELD. CHINA BELIEVED PRODUCING 40-50 MILLION TONS YEARLY, MOSTLY IN TACHING.

BURMA

11. U THANT LEAVES HOSPITAL FOLLOWING SURGERY ON NECK TUMOR. NO WORD WHETHER TUMOR IS CANCEROUS (PHINQ).

MALAYSIA

12. MALAYSIA WILL SET UP TRADE COMMISSION IN SAUDI ARABIA TO IMPROVE TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS WITH ARAB COUNTRIES, GOM SOURCES SAY (AFP, WP).

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JAPAN

13. OHIRA, IN INTERVIEW, SAYS JAPAN PROCEEDS WITH EXPLORATION OF OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS BETWEEN S.KOREA AND JAPAN ON BASIS OF TOKYO-SEOUL AGREEMENT DESPITE PEKING OBJECTIONS. "WE WILL NOT BE CAUSING TROUBLE FOR OTHERS". JAPAN PREFERS TO WAIT FOR US PARTICIPATION IN SOVIET-JAPANESE PROJECT TO DEVELOP TYUMEN FIELDS, AS INSURANCE AGAINST FUTURE TROUBLE WITH USSR, BUT CONGRESS READY TO VOTE DOWN EXIM BANK FINANCING BECAUSE OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION POLICY (CAUSING SOME "IMPATIENCE" IN JAPANESE BUSINESS CIRCLES). BILATERAL TALKS (JAPAN-EUROPE) ON "DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES" ARE TAKING PLACE, BUT GOJ STILL FAVORS HAK'S SINGLE TRILATERAL APPROACH. GOJ OFFICIALS EXPLAIN THAT JAPAN WALKING ON THIN ICE IN OIL CRISIS, WANTING TO PLEASE ARABS, OIL COMPANIES AND US (OKA, CSM).

14. "MEAT TRADE TRIANGLE" IS DEVELOPING WHEREBY US SELLS HIGH GRADE BEEF TO JAPAN TO HELP PAY FOR LARGE IMPORTS OF HAMBURGER FROM AUSTRALIA. RESULT SHOULD BE LOWER PRICES FOR CHEAPER MEAT CUTS. BUT SALES TO JAPAN, SOARING IN RECENT YEARS, DEPEND ON GOJ POLICY--RECENTLY UNFRIENDLY TO BEEF IMPORTS FOR DOMESTIC REASONS--AND THE ENERGY CRISIS IMPACT LOWERING JAPANESE DEMAND. FURTHER, US PRODUCERS FEAR IMPORTED BEEF COULD DEPRESS ALREADY SINKING BEEF PRICES (COLLINS, PHINQ; UPI, JOC).

15. THREE JAPANESE TRADING COMPANIES -- ATAKA, C. ITOH, AND MARUBENI -- AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO

IMPORT ABOUT 220,000 TONS OF KRAFT PULP ANNUALLY FROM GEORGIA PACIFIC STARTING ABOUT 1976. JAPANESE COMPANIES WILL LEND G-P 40 MILLION DOLS TO BE USED TO EXPAND LOUISIANA PULP PLANT. PURCHASE PRICE OF

PULP BASED ON CURRENT KRAFT EXPORT PRICES (WSJ).

16. JAL JUMBO JET HIJACKED ON TOKYO-OKINAWA FLIGHT LANDS SAFELY AT NAHA WITH 425 ON BOARD. HIJACKER UNCLASSIFIED

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CAPTURED, PASSENGERS SAFE (AP, UPI).

17. HALLORAN (NYT), IN TOKYO, REPORTS FINDING DISSATISFACTION WITH STATE OF LDP, ITS LEADERS AND JAPAN IN CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUNG LDP MEMBERS. PARTY'S "YOUNG LIONS" ARE RESTLESS AND HAVE BEGUN CRITICIZING AND AGITATING AGAINST SENIOR POLITICIANS. HALLORAN CITES RECENT STUDY BY NIHON KEIZAI THAT HIGHLIGHTED LDP'S ISOLATION FROM PEOPLE AND DELVED INTO PARTY'S "FINANCIAL DEPENDENCE ON BIG BUSINESS, ITS LACK OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND ITS FAILURE TO EDUCATE JAPANESE IN THE DEMOCRACY THAT IS RELATIVELY NEW HERE."

18. HIROO ONODA, 30 YEAR WWII HOLDOUT, IN WELL-PHOTOGRAPHED SURRENDER TO PRESIDENT MARCOS, RECEIVED FULL "PARDON". PROUD JAPANESE EXPECTED TO GIVE ONODA EMOTIONAL HOMECOMING, SEEING HIM AS EXEMPLIFYING REAL "SAMURAI" SPIRIT, BESIDES ADMIRING HIS COURAGE AND SENSE OF DUTY (SEIDEN, SUN; WP; AP, NYT; AP, CHITRIB).

19. JAPANESE MUTUAL FUNDS NET SELLERS OF FOREIGN STOCKS IN FEBRUARY -- FIRST TIME SINCE LAST JUNE -- BUT NET BUYERS OF JAPANESE SECURITIES (WSJ).

SEOUL

20. SAM JAMESON, IN SEOUL, SAYS LAT HAS LEARNED THAT POET KIM CHI HA IS BEING SOUGHT BY ROKG POLICE FOR UNKNOWN REASONS, AND THAT KIM IS REPORTED IN HIDING. SAYS "RELIABLE NON-KOREAN" SEOUL SOURCES DESCRIBE CHARGES OF SPYING FOR NK MADE AGAINST FIVE NOVELISTS AND INTELLECTUALS WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AS "FICTITIOUS." SOURCES ADD THAT TEN STILL-UNANNOUNCED ARRESTS INCLUDE FIVE OFFICIALS OF TINY OPPOSITION DEMOCRATIC UNIFICATION PARTY (MARCH 11). (ABRIDGED VERSION IN WP MARCH 11).

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21. STREAKERS SIGHTED IN JAPAN, HONG KONG, TAIPEI  
AND AUSTRALIA. TAIPEI AUTHORITIES NOT AMUSED,

THREATEN PAINFUL PUNISHMENT (SHIRLEY, WP; SUN).  
COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

CHINA

22. NYT'S LELYVELD IN HK CITES LA LAWYER HARNED PETTUS  
HOOSE, WHO STOPPED IN COLONY AFTER FOURTH TRIP TO PRC  
IN TWO YEARS ON BEHALF OF US FIRMS, THAT CHINESE OFFICIALS  
GAVE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THEY HAVE BEEN GOING OUT OF  
THEIR WAY TO ASSURE US BUSINESSMEN THAT "REVOLUTIONARY  
STORM" WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DAMA

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NHA TRANG  
JEC PARIS

USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

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